

## XXXIX.—Description of three new Species of Eremias.

By Dr. A. GÜNTHER.

*Eremias nitida.*

Snout not much produced or depressed, not much longer than the cleft of the orbit. *Eyelid scaly.* The labial margin of the suborbital shield is not longer than the preceding upper labial. Ventral scutes in six longitudinal and twenty-six transverse series. A brown longitudinal band along the back, separated by a brownish-red line from the black lateral band. Sides from behind the eye deep black, with two parallel white lines proceeding from the eye, the upper above the tympanum, the lower passing through its lower part. Tail and limbs uniform brownish. Lower parts white.

West Africa. Two specimens; the body of the larger is 40 millims. long, its tail being 90 millims.

*Eremias Spekii.*

Snout rather produced and pointed. *Eyelid scaly.* All the shields on the upper surface of the head ornamented by deep grooves. Supraorbitals with a few small scales in front and behind. The labial margin of the suborbital shield not longer than the preceding upper labial. Vertical narrowest and truncated posteriorly. Ventral scutes in six longitudinal and thirty transverse series. Dorsal scales very small, but each with an oblique keel. Brownish, with three white longitudinal lines on the back, and sometimes with another rather irregular one along the side. Short black cross bars between the white lines.

Two specimens were obtained by the late Capt. Speke in 5° 7' S. lat., between the coast and Unyamuezi. The body of the larger is 53 millims. long (without tail).

*Eremias Fordii.*

Allied to *E. Knoxii.*

Snout pointed, moderately produced. *Eyelid scaly.* Anterior frontal not in contact with the rostral; generally an azygos shield between the posterior frontals. Vertical narrow and truncated behind; a series of granules between the supra-ciliaries and supraorbitals. *The infraorbital does not enter the labial margin, and is situated above the fifth, sixth, and seventh supralabials.* Dorsal scales very small, each with an oblique keel. Ventral scutes in twelve longitudinal and twenty-nine transverse series. Præanal scales rather large. Toes distinctly serrated behind. Brownish, with black spots, which are arranged in longitudinal bands, one on each side of the back being the broadest, and including round whitish ocelli. A

narrow black median band is generally limited to the nuchal region, rarely extending to the end of the trunk.

Cape Colony. Several specimens from Sir A. Smith's collection. The body of the largest is 63 millims. long.

XL.—Note on *Trionyx gangeticus*, Cuvier, and *Trionyx hurum*, B. Hamilton. By JOHN ANDERSON, M.D., Calcutta.

HAVING examined forty-five living specimens of a *Trionyx* the young and adolescent individuals of which agree in their form and coloration with the figure given in Hardwicke and Gray's 'Illustrations of Indian Zoology' as *Trionyx javanicus*, Schw., and having removed the skulls and compared them with Cuvier's figure of *T. gangeticus*, I do not hesitate to refer them to one and the same species, i. e. *T. gangeticus*, Cuvier; the adult skulls in form and size agree with the skull figured by Dr. Gray as *T. gangeticus*, Cuvier; whereas, on the other hand, the *Trionyx hurum* and *T. ocellatus* of Dr. Gray (that is, specimens corresponding exactly with these drawings, which Dr. Gray afterwards referred to the *T. gangeticus* of Cuvier) yield skulls quite distinct from Cuvier's figure of the skull which he regarded as the *Trionyx du Gange*! The true *Trionyx gangeticus*, Cuv., is therefore the species which has hitherto gone under the name of *T. javanicus*, Schw., if by the latter were meant *Trionyches* agreeing with the figure so named in the 'Illustrations of Indian Zoology.' The skulls, however, of such forms, as they answer in every detail to Cuvier's figure, could not well be referred to any other species; so we have here another instance of a Chelonian animal as a whole having a specific geographical name allocated to it, while its dismembered skull has awarded to it another but kindred term. The cause of this unfortunate jumble of names as applied to the *Trionyx* of the Ganges, and each of which implies a distinct theory as to its distribution, is not difficult to explain, so long as animals are described, as in this case, from drawings, without any practical knowledge of the structural characters of the animal itself.

One hundred and twenty examples, living specimens, shells, and sterna, of the common *Trionyx* of the Ganges have passed through my hands; but in collecting them I succeeded in obtaining only two individuals agreeing with Dr. Gray's figures of *T. hurum* and *T. ocellatus*. The abundance, therefore, of the former indicates the propriety that, in one sense, exists in the name given to it by Cuvier. Specimens agreeing with the last-mentioned figures yield skulls in no way resembling the skull figured by Cuvier as *T. gangeticus*. The head-